(b) whether the Maharashtra State Government has agreed to share 50 per cent of the projects cost; and

(c) when the work of the projects would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) It has been decided to take up 10 projects under Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) Phase-ll. The approximate cost of these projects has been estimated as Rs. 3502 crores.

(b) Government of Maharashtra has agreed to share 50 percent cost of seven projects. Their consent for sharing 50% cost of the remaining three projects is being obtained.

(c) It is planned to take up MUTP Phase-ll during 2005-06. However, work on the two sanctioned projects is in progress.

Mining activity near Jodhpur-Delhi rail track

1452. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Konkan rail accident which occured recently had taken place after the special holiday train hit boulders and debris from a landslide;

(b) whether similar landslide or subsidence are taking place in Makrana where mining is common and mining activity in the vicinity of the Jodhpur-Delhi railway track is in clear violation of stipulated norms; and

(c) if so, what specific steps have been taken by Government to see the safety of all the trains including super fast trains which run on these tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No mining activity is in progress on Jodhpur-Delhi line near Makrana and there is no danger to track.

However, unauthorised mining is continuing on Makrana-Parbatsar branch line which has subsided and no trains are running on this branch line.

Railway has filed contempt petition in Rajasthan High Court to prevent the unauthorised mining.

Stability of rail routes

1453. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation has admitted for the first time that its 200-km. rail route falls under an instability zone;

(b) whether with repeated incidents the running of bullet train to ply on the tracks has proved unsafe; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to make the rail journey safe on these vulnerable tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Konkan Railway have proposed running one train at a maximum speed of 150 kmph from Madgaon to Roha and trial run were conducted from 26th to 29th December, 2002. However, before permitting this train, the infrastructure arrangement for ensuring smooth Railway journey at such speed will also be needed.

(c) In order to make Railway journey safe during monsoon season, immediate measures such as patrolling by locomotives in advance of the passenger trains and speed restriction of 40 kmph, have been taken in addition to patrolling of vulnerable spots. Provision of audiovisual pre-warning alarm devices in all deep cuttings, more than 12 metre in depth, is under consideration. One round of special loose scaling on massive scale has also been taken up in rock cuttings.

STD booths to educated unemployed

1454. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to accord priority to the educated unemployed youths while making allotments for STD booths,